

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS YAROSLAVSKY AND BURKE

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Chronic homelessness is a complex, persistent and long term problem. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines a chronically homeless person as: *“An unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has been continually homeless for one year or more, or has experienced four or more episodes of homelessness within the past 3 years.”*

According to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority 2005 Homeless Count, approximately 34,512 people in the County of Los Angeles are chronically homeless.

Studies show that supportive housing programs which link permanent housing with supportive services to chronically homeless people in need of public assistance and/or services (such as case management, substance abuse, mental health, and disabled and frail elderly homeless services) effectively reduce homelessness.

This housing model improves housing stability and reduces the use of high cost public services. Further, placement of homeless people with severe mental illness in permanent supportive housing is associated with reductions in hospitalizations, incarcerations, and subsequent use of shelters, emergency rooms, psychiatric and detoxification programs.

There is a growing interest in and commitment to the establishment of permanent

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supportive housing as a key strategy to reduce homelessness in Los Angeles County. The linkage of housing and supportive services requires partnerships that facilitate collaboration and coordination between housing development efforts in the 88 cities, supportive services of the County, and resources of other governmental agencies and private entities. The complexities of pulling together housing developers, capital funders, and organizations that can supply and finance the provision of supportive services, will require extensive coordination and integration among the entities involved.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Chief Executive Officer:

1. Develop for consideration by the Board, protocols that facilitate consistent partnerships with cities and entities interested in delivering housing linked to supportive services that reduce homelessness throughout the County. These protocols should build upon those being finalized by the County's Special Needs Housing Alliance Project Review Committee (PRC) between the City and County of Los Angeles that include consistent communication regarding available supportive service funding opportunities, joint review of potential supportive housing projects, and timely determinations to facilitate the growth and implementation of quality permanent supportive housing projects. The protocols should include the following:
 - An Inventory of Countywide supportive services that serve homeless individuals and families and those at risk of becoming homeless. This inventory should be made available to housing developers and other providers to reinforce the vast array of resources available in the County that are necessary complements to the development of permanent supportive housing projects.
 - A process that will facilitate contingent commitments of supportive services between the County, cities and developers of proposed permanent supportive

housing projects. Early commitments by the County will allow developers to leverage adequate public and private funds needed to complete these much needed housing projects.

- A process for ensuring the inclusion of well defined performance based outcomes in all projects that the County supports through any funding source.
2. Prepare a report to the Board that identifies best practice permanent supportive housing models in California and other parts of the nation that may be useful in Los Angeles County for serving three critical segments of the homeless population: chronically homeless individuals, homeless families and transition age youth. The best practices should be used in the protocols developed above.
 3. Develop a mobile supportive services program model and budget that can provide County funded support services to permanent supportive housing projects in targeted geographic areas. The mobile supportive services program should provide for the full array of both direct and contract County funded services needed to support homeless and at risk homeless persons and families placed in supportive housing, such as case management, substance abuse, mental health, physical health, financial assistance, etc.
 4. Develop proposals for State and federal legislative and regulatory policy change that enable the creation of adequate funding streams for permanent supportive housing to include, but not limited to, pre-development and operational expenses, and additional resources for County supportive services for homeless individuals and families and those at risk for becoming homeless.
 5. Set a Board policy meeting agenda to consider the above within the next 90 days.